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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,233	08/16/2001	Jun Hirai	SONYJP-127	6620

530 7590 05/20/2004

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EXAMINER

SHENG, TOM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

[Handwritten initials]

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/856,233

Applicant(s)

HIRAI, JUN

Examiner

Tom V Sheng

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 11-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 11-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushijima et al. (US 5594426) in view of Ikonen et al. (US 6473078 B1).

As for claim 1, Ushijima teaches an information processing apparatus (network management station 2; figures 5, 6, 9) connected to a plurality of other apparatuses (network station 1) via a network (figure 1 shows a CSMA/CD type of LAN where the network management station 2 and a plurality of network stations 1 are connected). See column 3, lines 6-12.

Moreover, Ushijima teaches an inquiring means (network polling unit 202) for querying a respective one of the plurality of other apparatuses (periodically issues inquiries via the network control unit 201 to the network station 1) regarding its operation state. See column 7, line 37 to column 8, line 5.

Ushijima further teaches monitoring the power state of respective apparatus (network station 1) via an event receiver 203 of the network management station 2. See figure 9 and column 8, line 42 to column 9, line 9.

One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that both polling/inquiring and monitoring are both well-recognized methods of communication. Thus, the event notification of power-on or power-off could just as well be communicated through polling (querying).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ushijima's communication method to be all in polling mode, because this is implementable and also results in saving need of an event receiver 203.

Ushijima does not teach a power-off mode when a response from the respective apparatus is not detected, and, when the response is detected, for determining whether the power mode is a power-on mode or a standby mode.

Ikonen teaches power management in an integrated display unit having components/peripheral devices such as audio amplifier, speakers, microphone, camera and telephone handset, as well as the video display. Specifically, when no signals are detected, a power-off state is implemented, whereas, when signals are detected, a power-on or standby state is implemented depending which signal is/are present.

See Table 3, column 3, line 14 to column 4, line 40.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Ikonen's detection method into Ushijima's invention, thus allowing a quick and logical method in discriminating the power mode of the network station 1.

Ushijima does not specifically teach a memory for storing information representing the power mode of the respective apparatus. However, using a memory simply allows storage of power mode information of later retrieval.

Moreover, Ushijima teaches a display unit 204 or 12 of the network management station 2 that would display a color change for the respective network station 1. This feature reads on claimed display control means.

As for claim 3, Ikonen's power management adjusts power consumption according to the different power state including standby mode, thus reads on claimed power input instructing means for providing a command to a power source.

As for claim 4, Ushijima's network could very well be implemented using an IEEE1394 serial bus.

The method claim 5 and computer-readable recording medium claim 6 correspond directly to apparatus claim 1 and is rejected as analyzed in claim 1 above.

As for claim 11, modified Ushijima teaches that the color of the network station 1 would change whenever the power state changes. This changes read on claimed appearance of icon indicating the respective power mode.

Claims 12 and 16 are rejected per analysis of claim 1. Obviously each network station 1 would need to be queried in turn in order to maintain a control of the network stations connected.

Claims 13 and 17 are rejected per analysis of claim 11.

Claims 14 and 18 are rejected per analysis of claim 3.

Claims 15 and 19 are rejected per analysis of claim 4.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom V Sheng whose telephone number is (703) 305-6708. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tom Sheng
May 6, 2004


KENT CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER